

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00896 071206Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 071010Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7431

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11/2: N3

TAGS: OCON, AORG, PFOR, OVIP, FI

SUBJECT: CSCE: FINNISH DRUTHERS RE PHASE III TIMING

REF: HELSINKI 0895

1. AS EACH DAY PASSES, FINNISH OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PHASE III OF CSCE ARE BECOMING MORE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE CONFERENCE. GOF IS HONOR-BOUND, OF COURSE, TO HOST THE CONFERENCE DURING ANY PERIOD DESIGNATED BY PHASE II. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE FINNS ARE PROCEEDING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN JULY AND ARE ACCORDINGLY MAKING THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS (SEE REFTEL). IF THE CONFERENCE IS NOT HELD DURING JULY, HOWEVER, THE FINNS HAVE INDICATED TO US IN CONFIDENCE THEY WOULD PREFER A POSTPONEMENT UNTIL OCTOBER.

2. BENGT BROMS, DIRECTOR OF FINLANDIA HOUSE, TELLS US HE HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY FINNISH OFFICIALS TO HAVE FINLANDIA HOUSE READY FOR THE CONFERENCE ON JULY 8. BROMS SAYS THAT HE WILL REQUIRE THREE TO

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00896 071206Z

FOUR WEEKS TO CONVERT FINLANDIA HOUSE INTO A

CONFERENCE SITE, IN WHICH CASE, HE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE THE "GO AHEAD" BY EARLY JUNE. BROMS IS HOPEFUL THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD DURING JULY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HELSINKI FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED FROM AUGUST 22 TO SEPT 6 WITH PLANS FIRM FOR MANY VISITING PERFORMING ARTISTS AND ORGANIZATIONS AND MANY PERFORMANCES "SOLD OUT." THIS FESTIVAL IS THE HIGH POINT OF HELSINKI'S SUMMER CALENDAR AND CONTRIBUTES CONSIDERABLY TO ITS ECONOMY (HOTELS, TOURISM, ETC.).

3. AMBASSADOR PEKURI, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF ALL CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, ALSO TOLD DCM IN CONFIDENCE THAT THE FINNS WOULD PREFER THAT THE CONFERENCE BE HELD IN OCTOBER IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED ON ITS BEING HELD DURING JULY. HIS REASONING WAS ALSO BASED PRIMARILY ON THE HELSINKI FESTIVAL BUT ADDED THAT THE FINNISH CALENDAR WAS "MUCH CLEARER" DURING OCTOBER THAN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

4. COMMENT: THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS ARE BEING REPORTED FOR WHATEVER VALUE THEY MAY HAVE TO OUR DELEGATION IN GENEVA IN DETERMINING A SUITABLE DATE FOR THE CONFERENCE. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT LAST YEAR THE MALTESE AMBASSADOR FORCED THE TIMING ISSUE FOR PHASE I THROUGH PROCEDURAL TACTICS. OUR DELEGATION IN GENEVA MAY CARE TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH AMBASSADOR PEKURI WHO IS CURRENTLY IN GENEVA.
KREHBIEL

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